

Principles for the Housing the Workforce Sub-Grants

Housing Working Group Co-Chair Update

The Regional Prosperity Plan has budgeted up to \$1.2 million to support a range of pilot projects across the region that promote affordable housing development and preservation, anti-displacement strategies, and capacity-building among local non-profit and community-based organizations as well as public agencies. The first round of these Housing the Workforce Sub-Grants will be funded through a Call for Projects, to be released in November 2012.

Over the last three months, the Housing Working Group (HWG) has developed a set of nine (9) principles to guide the development of this Call for Projects. Specifically, these principles will be used to develop the screening criteria, evaluation criteria and “portfolio-balancing” factors, which will be used by the Joint Projects Team and the Steering Committee to evaluate proposals. To avoid potential conflicts of interest for prospective applicants, the HWG will not participate in developing the selection criteria *per se*. The proposed principles are:

1. Projects should be unique (i.e., not replicate work already done/under way) and build upon a foundation of related existing work. We want to fund projects that need funding, projects that will not happen without this initiative.
2. Projects should take advantage of opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, including among multiple local organizations, across geographies and between non-profit and local government. We want to encourage groups to work together.
3. Projects should have replicability or use beyond the individual project, not just a one-time impact.
4. Projects should have an on-the-ground implementation component. We want projects that are more than good ideas, projects that can shape public policy.
5. Projects should build organizing capacity at the local, sub-regional, and/or regional level.
6. Projects should support/integrate with the work of the other working groups – Economic Development Working Group and the Equity Collaborative.
7. Projects do not need to be restricted to new production. We also want innovative strategies beyond production that focus on affordable housing preservation and neighborhood stabilization as outlined in the scope of work for the Regional Prosperity Plan.
8. Projects should serve the needs of Extremely Low Income and Very Low Income people, and take into consideration housing and transportation costs as well as access to jobs.
9. Projects should cover a diversity of market types, place types and geographies that represent Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in the region, recognizing however that each project may focus on a particular place type or community.